

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Beginnings of Vital Statistics in California Counties

During recent years there has been a larger demand for copies of birth certificates for events of births which occurred prior to July, 1905, when the State Vital Statistics Act went into effect. The increase in travel to European countries has provided a stimulus which has resulted in many requests for certificates of births which occurred prior to state registration. Applicants for such certificates must, of necessity, be referred to the recorders of the counties in which they may have been born. In various counties, the State Department of Public Health has gathered information pertaining to registration from each of the county recorders of the state. It has been found that marriage records have been kept most faithfully from the earliest times. Deaths have been registered in rather desultory fashion and records of births in many counties are totally incomplete. It is interesting to note that registration of marriages began in Sonoma County in 1846, four years before the state government was organized. These marriage records were made under the old Bear Flag government, which flourished in Sonoma County in the early days. Many of the counties have marriage records which date back to the early fifties. This pertains especially to the mountain counties in the old mining districts and to other counties which were organized early in the history of California.

No birth or marriage records for San Francisco are available for the period prior to April 18, 1906, as all these records were destroyed in the San Francisco

conflagration of that date. A few of the San Francisco death certificates were saved from the fire, most of these being dated in the early sixties and seventies. Indices for the death records of some of the later years escaped the fire, also. The following table gives most detailed information relative to the years when registration of births, deaths and marriages began in the various counties of this state. In using this table, it must be borne in mind that birth and death registration, particularly, may not be considered as complete prior to July of 1905:

BEGINNING OF BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGE RECORDS IN CALIFORNIA COUNTIES

County	Births	Deaths	Marriages
Alameda	1859-1861 1873-1879 1899-1905 1919-	1859-1861 1873-1879 1899-1905 1919-	August, 1853
Alpine	July, 1905	July, 1905-	Sept., 1864
Amador	1873-	1873-	
Butte	1859-	1859-	1851-
Calaveras	1905-	1905-	Earliest time
Colusa	1873-	1873-	1851-
Contra Costa	1907-	1907-	1851-
Del Norte	1873-	1873-	1905-
El Dorado (1)	July, 1905	Jan., 1910-	July, 1905-
Fresno	1873-	1873-	1858-
Glenn	1905-	1905-	1891
Humboldt	1874-	1874-	1864-
Imperial	1907-	1907-	1907-
Inyo	1905-	1905-	1905-
Kern	1880-	1880-	1866-
Kings	1905-	1905-	1905-
Lake	1873-	1873-	1867-
Lassen	1908-	1908-	1870-
Los Angeles	1875-1876 1889-	1875-1876 1889-	1853-
Madera	1893-	1893-	1893-
Mariposa	1873-1887 1906-	1873-1887 1906-	
Marin	1873-	1873-	1856-
Mendocino	1873-	1873-	1859-
Merced	1873-	1889-	1873-
Modoc	1905-		
Monterey	1874-	1874-	1870-
Mono	1875-	1875-	1875-

(1) Fire destroyed early records.

BEGINNING OF BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGE RECORDS IN CALIFORNIA COUNTIES—Continued

County	Births	Deaths	Marriages
Napa	1873-	1873-	1868-
Nevada	1873-	1873-	1856-
Orange	1889-	1889-	1889-
Placer	1873-	1873-	Dec., 1851-
Plumas	1873-	1873-	May, 1854-
Riverside	July, 1893-	July, 1893-	July, 1893-
Sacramento	1858-	1858-	1850-
San Bernardino	1854-	1854-	1854-
San Benito	1874-	1874-	1874-
San Diego	1873-	1873-	1870-
San Francisco	All local records to April 18, 1906, destroyed, excepting July 1, 1905, to March 31, 1906, which are on file with State Registrar, Vital Statistics, Sacramento, Cal.	Book 1—Nov. 8, 1865, to Sept. 30, 1869 (Index Missing). Book 2—Oct. 1, 1869, to Apr. 30, 1873, (Index Missing). Missing—May 1, 1873, to July 31, 1894, excepting Book 3 (Index Missing), April 1, 1882, to June 30, 1889. (Contains Coroner Cases Only). Book "M" (Index O. K.) August 1, 1894, to June 30, 1896. Missing July 1, 1896, to March 16, 1900. (Excepting Index only to Book "O" July 1, 1898, to March 16, 1900.) Book "P" (Index O. K.) March 17, 1900, to October 22, 1901. Book "Q" (Index O. K.) October 23, 1901, to June 30, 1903. Book "R" (Index O. K.) July 1, 1903, to July 30, 1904. (Index O. K.) July 1, 1904, to November 30, 1904. Missing December 1, 1904, to July 30, 1905. (Excepting Index Only, December 1, 1904, to Jan. 31, 1905). NOTE.—All Original Birth and Death Certificates since July 1, 1905, filed monthly with State Registrar, Vital Statistics, Sacramento, Calif.	April, 1906

San Joaquin (2)	1858-Jan., 1893	1858-Jan., 1923	Dec., 1850
San Luis Obispo	1880-	1880-	Record of All
San Mateo	1881-	1873-	1862-
Santa Barbara	1864-	1864-	1864-
Santa Clara	1873-	1873-	1850-
Santa Cruz	1873-	1873-	1905-
Shasta	1873-	1873-	1852-
Sierra	1904-	1904-	1850-
Siskiyou	1873-	1873-	1853-
Solano	Prior to 1905 records incomplete	Prior to 1905 records incomplete	Complete
Sonoma	1858-	1873-	1846-
Stanislaus	1873-	1873-	1854-
Sutter	1905-	July, 1905-	1862-
Tehama	1889-	---	---
Trinity	1894-	---	---
Tulare	1905-	1905-	---
Tuolumne	1858-1878	1859-1874-	1850-
	1901-	1894-	1873-
Ventura	1873-	1873-	1850-
Yolo	1878-	1878-	1851-
Yuba	1873-	1873-	---

(2) Health Officer has records of birth and death since January, 1923.

MARRIAGES DECLINE IN 1930

The total number of marriages performed in California during the first six months of the present year is 74 short of the total number performed during the first six months of 1929. The total for the first half of the year 1929 was 24,076 and for the corresponding period of 1930 it was 24,002. The counties in which the number of marriages has diminished are as follows:

	First Half of 1929	First Half of 1930	Loss
Alameda	1696	1667	29
Amador	27	15	12
Butte	108	86	22
Contra Costa	263	256	7
Del Norte	20	15	5
Imperial	189	161	28
Inyo	22	18	4
Lassen	19	16	3
Mariposa	12	8	4
Mono	2	1	1
Monterey	222	219	3
Orange	1760	1663	107
Riverside	656	574	82
San Bernardino	547	520	27
San Francisco	2950	2846	104
San Joaquin	375	339	36
Santa Clara	700	675	25
Shasta	35	22	13
Siskiyou	55	37	18
Sonoma	208	206	2
Tehama	36	30	6
Trinity	7	3	4
Tulare	252	247	5
Tuolumne	34	29	5
Yolo	55	50	5

In the following counties gains in the numbers of marriages are as follows:

	First Half of 1929	First Half of 1930	Gain
El Dorado	17	18	1
Fresno	500	516	16
Glenn	28	31	3
Humboldt	83	115	32
Kern	310	311	1
Kings	107	140	33
Lake	22	23	1
Los Angeles	8991	9030	39
Madera	65	78	13
Marin	157	177	20
Mendocino	54	57	3
Merced	125	133	8
Modoc	12	15	3
Napa	98	142	44
Placer	48	52	4
Plumas	2	6	4
Sacramento	509	523	16
San Benito	56	69	13
San Diego	882	904	22
San Luis Obispo	124	139	15
San Mateo	412	458	46
Santa Barbara	269	316	47
Santa Cruz	180	187	7
Solano	116	124	8
Stanislaus	186	193	7
Sutter	16	18	2
Ventura	383	442	59
Yuba	26	34	8

The totals remained the same, both years, in the following counties:

	First Half of 1929	First Half of 1930
Calaveras	7	7
Colusa	19	19
Nevada	21	21
Sierra	1	1

Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Mateo, Napa, Kings and Humboldt counties showed the greatest gain in number of marriages performed. The most conspicuous losses occurred in Orange, Riverside, San Fran-

cisco, San Joaquin, Imperial, Butte, Santa Clara and Alameda counties.

February and March showed marked gains, but all the other months showed losses, the greatest slump occurring during the month of June, as the following table indicates:

	First Half of 1929	First Half of 1930	Difference
January -----	3777	3713	— 64
February -----	3176	3405	+229
March -----	3185	3458	+273
April -----	4029	3889	—140
May -----	3674	3647	— 27
June -----	6235	5890	—345

The first six months of 1926 and 1927 brought the greatest number of marriages ever performed during similar periods of time in California. The years 1929 and 1930 show a recovery from the slump that occurred in 1928, but the 1930 total indicates that there will be no conspicuous gain in the number of marriages this year.

First 6 Months of	No. of Marriages
1926	26,680
1927	27,939
1928	21,789
1929	24,076
1930	24,002

MEDICAL EDITORS URGE PUBLIC HEALTH PORTFOLIO

The American Medical Editors' and Authors' Association, in annual convention, passed the following resolution urging the creation of a portfolio of public health in the President's Cabinet:

WHEREAS, The health of its citizens is our Nation's greatest asset; and

WHEREAS, There is now much duplication of effort and division of responsibility in regard to health matters, as now conducted; and

WHEREAS, Labor, commerce, agriculture and other matters of relatively less importance are represented by an officer in the President's Cabinet, while the nation's health is not so represented, although such representation has been recommended by the American Medical Association and endorsed in their platforms, from time to time, by both of the major political parties; and

WHEREAS, It seems reasonably certain that the various health activities now in operation could be more efficiently conducted if coordinated under a responsible head; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Medical Editors' and Authors' Association, in convention assembled (at Detroit, Mich., on June 24, 1930) recommends and urges that steps be taken immediately for the creation of a Portfolio of Public Health, in the Cabinet, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State, Washington, D. C., to the secretaries of all National and State Medical Organizations and to all members of this association.

Signed for the association:

H. LYONS HUNT, President,
E. VANDERVOORT, Secretary.

ACCIDENTS CAUSE MANY DEATHS

Eight and one-half per cent of all deaths that occurred in California last year were due to external causes, mostly accidents in which diseases were not involved. The total number of such deaths was 5558 out of a total of 65,363 deaths from all causes.

Accidents in which automobiles were involved caused almost one-half of all deaths due to external causes. Falls, in both industry and the home, caused almost one-sixth of such deaths. Drownings and accidental burns contributed heavily toward making the large total. The following analysis shows the number of deaths due to each of the principal external causes in 1929:

Deaths from External Causes in 1929

Poisoning by food-----	42
Poisoning by venomous animals-----	4
Other accidental poisonings-----	96
Conflagration -----	59
Accidental burns-----	266
Accidental mechanical suffocation-----	48
Accidental absorption of irrespirable irritating poisonous gases -----	130
Drownings -----	332
Traumatism by firearms (exclusive of war wounds)-----	98
Traumatism by cutting or piercing instruments-----	19
Traumatism by machines-----	86
Falls -----	885
Mines and quarries—accidents-----	33
Railroad accidents-----	168
Street car accidents-----	87
Automobile accidents-----	2,058
Airplane accidents-----	92
Motorcycle accidents-----	32
Other vehicles-----	22
Landslide or other crushing-----	72
Automobiles and railroads-----	125
Automobiles and street cars-----	60
By animals (not poisonings)-----	20
Starvation -----	7
Excessive cold-----	2
Excessive heat -----	87
Electric shocks-----	63
Homicide by firearms-----	195
Homicide by cutting or piercing instruments-----	54
Homicide by other means-----	77
Infanticide -----	1
Fractures -----	12
Other external violence-----	225
Violence (unknown)-----	1
Total-----	5,558

MORBIDITY *

Diphtheria.

35 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 2, Los Angeles County 3, Burbank 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 15, Santa Monica 1, Salinas 1, Riverside 3, National City 1, San Francisco 2, Siskiyou County 1, Vallejo 1.

Scarlet Fever.

26 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 3, Oakland 1, Fresno 1, Taft 1, Glendale 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 4, Redondo 1, Marin County 1, Salinas 1, Roseville 1, Sacramento 1, San Benito County 2, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 3, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Barbara 1, San Jose 1.

Measles.

158 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Albany

*From reports received on August 4th and 5th for week ending August 2d.

1, Berkeley 6, Hayward 2, Kern County 2, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 14, Alhambra 3, Burbank 1, Glendale 1, Glendora 1, La Verne 2, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 2, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 5, Sierra Madre 1, Whittier 2, South Gate 2, Maywood 2, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 4, Riverside County 10, Riverside 1, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 3, Chula Vista 4, Escondido 4, National City 1, San Diego 30, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 4, Redwood City 1, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 1, Watsonville 1, Sutter County 4, Tehama County 1, Ventura 2.

Smallpox.

18 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 1, Riverside County 2, Oceanside 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 5, San Luis Obispo County 3, Tulare County 1.

Typhoid Fever.

30 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Fresno 1, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 1, Burbank 1, Los Angeles 5, Merced County 1, Roseville 1, Riverside County 1, Chula Vista 6, San Francisco 1, San Diego 1, Rio Vista 1, Sonoma County 1, Modesto 4, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 1, Yolo County 1, California 1.**

Whooping Cough.

99 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Berkeley 2, Oakland 7, Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 7, Azusa 1, Culver City 2, Glendale 3, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 27, Montebello 2, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, Santa Monica 3, Lynwood 2, Sausalito 1, Orange County 1, Sacramento 2, Coronado 1, National City 2, San

Diego 17, San Joaquin 2, Stockton 3, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 1, Yuba County 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

5 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: San Leandro 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 2, San Francisco 1.

Food Poisoning.

23 cases of food poisoning have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 15, Los Angeles 3, Orange County 4, Sonoma County 1.

Undulant Fever.

3 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Kern County 1, Fullerton 1, Winters 1.

Coccidioidal Granuloma.

Los Angeles reported one case of coccidioidal granuloma.

Tularemia.

Plumas County reported one case of tularemia.

Poliomyelitis.

71 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 13, Glendale 2, Huntington Park 3, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 23, Pasadena 5, Pomona 1, San Fernando 1, South Gate 5, Monterey Park 1, Maywood 1, San Anselmo 1, Orange County 1, Fullerton 1, San Diego County 1, San Francisco 2, Santa Barbara 2, Sonoma County 1, Tulare 1, California 1.**

**Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1930				1929			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Aug. 2 received by Aug. 5	Week ending			Reports for week ending Aug. 3 received by Aug. 6
	July 12	July 19	July 26		July 13	July 20	July 27	
Actinomycosis	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox	117	57	59	27	110	83	65	53
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coccidioidal Granuloma	0	0	2	1	0	2	3	0
Dengue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Diphtheria	54	51	29	35	52	39	33	36
Dysentery (Amoebic)	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2
Dysentery (Bacillary)	11	2	1	2	1	7	0	2
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	1	0	1	0	1	3	1	0
Erysipelas	15	12	12	10	11	11	12	11
Food Poisoning	6	0	34	23	1	41	1	0
German Measles	9	3	4	4	14	17	4	4
Gonococcus Infection	128	171	136	93	94	135	93	116
Hookworm	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	19	21	11	10	6	5	7	12
Jaundice (Epidemic)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leprosy	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	0	1	5	10	2	2	3	4
Measles	572	336	238	158	81	44	57	34
Meningitis (Epidemic)	3	1	6	5	4	15	16	6
Mumps	177	163	105	72	148	137	109	128
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever	2	1	0	0	2	2	0	0
Pellagra	2	0	2	4	1	2	0	0
Pneumonia (Lobar)	26	20	21	24	35	34	23	30
Poliomyelitis	97	97	89	71	5	4	4	1
Rabies (Animal)	10	17	18	8	14	21	7	15
Rocky Mt. Spotted Fever	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	50	40	49	26	103	100	108	65
Smallpox	35	18	8	18	22	27	28	10
Syphilis	129	162	200	152	104	131	139	260
Tetanus	1	1	2	1	0	1	3	0
Trachoma	3	1	1	5	2	2	1	1
Trichinosis	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	211	157	189	181	167	177	221	207
Tularemia	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Typhoid Fever	22	18	35	30	14	13	27	23
Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Undulant Fever	3	3	0	3	0	0	3	0
Whooping Cough	115	168	151	99	144	164	176	148
Totals	1,823	1,523	1,413	1,074	1,143	1,220	1,146	1,170



Epidemic Poliomyelitis last week dropped twenty per cent in its prevalence.



Food poisoning due to paratyphoid infection was reported last week.



Measles, Scarlet Fever and Chickenpox show declines.



Typhoid Fever is in evidence.

